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FSIS Docket Clerk
Docket 03-0251F
Room 102, Cotton Annex
300 12th and C Street SW.
Washington, DC 20250-3700

03-0251F-107
03-0251F
Angela Andre

February 6, 2004

Dear Secretary Ann Veneman,

I am writing today to thank you for helping to ban the slaughter of downed cows for human consumption. This is an important step to maintain the health of humans and a small price to pay to provide basic humanity to the animals that give their lives for our diet. I am also imploring you to hold the line against weakening changes in the Downer law and maintaining the USDA's interpretation of downers – i.e., all non-ambulatory disabled animals, regardless of the reason they are unable to stand or walk (illness, injury, or a combination). Special interests never seem to rest and it is people like you that can help keep them at bay. These sentient beings deserve the respect of being put down when they are sick. It is barbaric and beyond sense to treat them merely as property and allowing them to suffer so that a buck can be made off them. Science has proven that it is impossible to know if an animal has BSE merely by looking at them. Any animal that is sick for any reason should be put down. It is too risky to do otherwise. Please help ensure that the downer definition is not weakened.

Also, it is only a matter of time until our modern farming practices create another disease like BSE in other species. If we are going to venture this humanity and safety on cows, why not to other species of factory farmed animals? The ban should cover any species of downed animals – not just cows, but also pigs, sheep, and other livestock. All sick animals deserve human euthanasia, even if it means less money in the pockets of factory farmers.

Thank you for your time and please consider this final plea: We do not allow companion animals to suffer like this... why is it different for farm animals. Do they not hurt the same?

Regards,


Angela Andre